
By: **Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (Departmental - Natural Resources)**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Forest Conservation**

3 FOR the purpose of providing for a certain notice to an applicant after submission of
4 a forest conservation plan; providing that the State may develop certain
5 provisions relating to forest conservation; requiring the deposit of certain funds
6 in the Forest Conservation Fund; and generally relating to forest conservation.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Natural Resources
9 Section 5-1605(d), 5-1607(e), and 5-1610(c)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2000 Replacement Volume)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Natural Resources**

15 5-1605.

16 (d) Within 45 days from receipt of the forest conservation plan, the
17 Department or local authority shall notify the applicant whether the forest
18 conservation plan is complete [and approved]. If the Department or local authority
19 fails to notify the applicant about the forest conservation plan within 45 days, the
20 plan shall be treated as complete and approved. The Department or local authority
21 may require further information or provide for an extension of this deadline for an
22 additional 15 days for extenuating circumstances. In addition, at the request of the
23 applicant, the State or local authority may extend this deadline for extenuating
24 circumstances.

25 5-1607.

26 (e) (1) As part of the development of a forest conservation program, [a] THE
27 STATE OR local government shall develop provisions for:

1 (i) Preservation of areas described in subsections (c) and (d)(1) and
2 (3) of this section;

3 (ii) Retention as forest of all land forested, afforested, or reforested
4 under this subtitle; and

5 (iii) Limitation of uses of forest to those that are not inconsistent
6 with forest conservation, such as recreational activities and forest management under
7 subsection (f) of this section.

8 (2) The provisions required in paragraph (1) of this subsection may
9 include protective agreements for areas of forest conservation, including conservation
10 easements, deed restrictions, and covenants.

11 5-1610.

12 (c) Money collected by the State or a local authority under § 5-1608(c) OR §
13 5-1612 of this subtitle for noncompliance with this subtitle or regulations adopted
14 under this subtitle, or for noncompliance with a forest conservation plan or the
15 associated 2-year management agreement shall be deposited in the Forest
16 Conservation Fund.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2001.